



What Philanthropy Can Do

MARCH 2017

Recent federal policy changes—whether via presidential executive orders or guidance and memos from federal agencies—have left immigrants and refugees in the United States living in profound uncertainty and fear. Under these policies, immigrant children and families, regardless of their immigration status, are vulnerable to immigration enforcement, detention, and deportation.

Recognizing the devastating impact on families, including long-term or permanent separation, many in philanthropy have been swift in responding to these policy challenges. Some have increased funding to

current grantees, while others have launched rapid-response funds. Still others, especially those new to this space, have worked quickly to educate themselves about the issues and made grants outside their funding priorities. To date, nearly 200 foundations have signed a joint statement in support of immigrants and refugees.

In this fast-moving and high-stakes environment, philanthropic support is vital to ramping up the capacity of nonprofits and engaging a diverse range of stakeholders—from local governments and educators to business and faith leaders. Regardless of funding priorities, theories of change,

size, or geographic focus, foundations can fund wide-ranging efforts that directly support immigrant families and communities; shape public opinion; sustain grantees for the long road ahead; and build a broad-based movement to bring about systems change. Given the unpredictable policy landscape and the significant demands on the field, general-support grants provide maximum flexibility that allow grantees pivot and address the most pressing needs.

For more information, including consultation on funding strategies, please contact GCIR.

Areas for Philanthropic Impact

Individuals

- “Know your rights”
- Legal screening
- Direct legal representation
- Legal services coordination
- Assistance to hate-crime victims
- Integration services (ESL, jobs, health, naturalization)

Grantees

- General or flexible support
- Multi-year grants
- Streamlined grant processes
- Capacity building
- Self-care
- Personal safety
- Cyber security
- Staff development

Systems

- Policy advocacy
- Community organizing
- Relationships with elected officials
- Public sector leadership and resources
- Impact litigation



Immigrant Communities

- Outreach and education
- Ethnic media
- Anti-hate work
- Involvement of community institutions (schools, health centers, etc.)

Movement

- Build alliances
- Think and fund intersectionally
- Connect communities and issues
- Engage unusual allies
- Use equity frame
- Avoid pitting communities against each other

Public Opinion

- Rapid-response communications
- Coordinated PR campaign to change narrative
 - › Unified voice among affected communities
 - › Positioning California’s experience
- Philanthropy
 - › Individual foundation stands
 - › Joint communications